

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please enter the following amendments in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b).

1-14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** The casket assembly of claim 22 , wherein at least two of said panels are composite panels and each composite panel is separately covered with ~~a~~ the veneer.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer comprises a thin wood veneer.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer is a hardwood.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer is a soft material.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer is cloth.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer is leather.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The casket assembly of claim 15, wherein the veneer is a metal foil.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A casket assembly made of pre-fabricated panels, the assembly comprising:

a. a plurality of panels defining a the casket assembly, wherein at least one of the said panels panel is a composite panel, said composite panel comprising:

a base material and a binder compressed to form said composite panel; ~~and~~

b. a veneer applied to the ~~outer~~ surface of said composite panel, said veneer comprising a veneer material perforated with a plurality of pinholes, wherein said pinholes permit steam to penetrate the veneer to activate a binder to secure the veneer to the composite panel;

and

a finish coat applied to said at least one panel overlaying said perforated  
~~material.~~